

**SELF-LIGATING ORTHODONTIC BRACKETS INCLUDING A METAL
LIGATION COVER HINGEDLY CONNECTED TO A BRACKET BASE**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 09/952,584, *now U.S. Patent No. 6,695,612*, filed September 12, 2001, in the names of Norbert Abels and Claus H. Backes and entitled **SELF-LIGATING ORTHODONTIC BRACKETS INCLUDING A LIGATION COVER HINGEDLY CONNECTED TO A BRACKET BASE**. For purposes of this disclosure, the foregoing application is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. The Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to orthodontic brackets, more particularly to self-ligating orthodontic brackets that include a bracket base, at least one slot or other feature for receiving an arch wire, and a ligation cover.

2. The Relevant Technology

[0003] Orthodontics is a specialized field of dentistry that involves the application of mechanical forces to urge poorly positioned, or crooked, teeth into correct alignment and orientation. Orthodontic procedures can be used for cosmetic enhancement of teeth, as well as medically necessary movement of teeth to correct underbites or overbites ("buck teeth"). Orthodontic treatment can improve the patient's occlusion, or enhanced spatial matching of corresponding teeth.

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